

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSM-03 MCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SIL-01

LAB-04 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 /098 W

-----063103 201849Z /43

R 201637Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC 554

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO, LE

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE ON THE WEST BANK

SUMMARY: WIDESPREAD DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE ON THE WEST BANK TO PROTEST ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SOUTH LEBANON. STUDENTS ARE BURNING TIRES, BLOCKING ROADS FOR SHORT PERIODS AND STONING PATROLS AND CARS. USING TEAR GAS, BATONS AND WARNING SHOTS, ISRAELI TROOPS HAVE DISPERSED THE PROTESTS AND, ON OCCASION, STORMED SCHOOLS. SO FAR, DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN TWO DEATHS, NUMEROUS INJURIES AND WIDESPREAD ARRESTS. STRIKES CLOSED SOME TOWNS BRIEFLY AND MANY SCHOOLS REMAIN CLOSED BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO SERIOUS PROLONGED DISRUPTIONS OF DAILY LIFE. VIGILANTE ACTION REPORTED FROM KIRYAT ARBA. END SUMMARY

1. DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE WEST BANK MARCH 18, 19, AND 20 AS PALESTINIANS HERE PROTESTED THE ISRAELI
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OCCUPATION OF SOUTH LEBANON.

2. IN NABLUS, TWO YOUNG BOYS WERE KILLED MARCH 18 WHEN AN IDF TRUCK WHOSE DRIVER WAS STRUCK BY STONES THROWN BY DEMONSTRATORS SMASHED INTO A CAFE IN A REFUGEE CAMP. FOUR OTHER LOCALS WERE INJURED--TWO SERIOUSLY. ACCORDING TO THE ACTING MAYOR, ZAFAR AL MASRI, SEVERAL HUNDRED STUDENTS HAVE

BEEN ARRESTED OVER THE WEEKEND. A GENERAL STRIKE MARCH 19 WAS COMPLETE, ACCORDING TO AL MASRI, WHILE ABOUT HALF THE SHOPS AND SCHOOLS OPENED MARCH 20.

3. IN RAMALLAH, STUDENTS BLOCKED ROADS AND BURNT TIRES ON AND OFF OVER THE WEEKEND. A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL WAS THROWN AT AN IDF JEEP MARCH 18, BUT CAUSED NO DAMAGE ACCORDING TO THE ISRAELI PRESS. SAME SOURCE REPORTS ONE TOURIST INJURED WHEN A CAR WAS STONED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CITY. SEVERAL RAMALLAH EDUCATORS HAVE ACCUSED ISRAELI TROOPS OF INCITING STUDENTS AND STORMING CLASSROOMS. THE PRINCIPAL OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS' GIRL SCHOOL (AN AMCIT) REPORTS ISRAELI TROOPS BROKE SCORES OF WINDOWS THERE WHEN THEY WERE UNABLE TO DISCOVER WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A TIRE BURNING NEARBY. A GENERAL STRIKE PLANNED FOR MARCH 20 ABORTED WHEN SECURITY FORCES FORCED LOCKS ON LOCAL STORES, ACCORDING TO RAMALLAH RESIDENTS.

4. IN BETHLEHEM, MOST SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED MARCH 20, BUT BUSINESSES OPEN. DEMONSTRATIONS OF AS YET UNKNOWN SEVERITY HAVE BEEN REPORTED AT BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY. SEVERAL STUDENTS FROM LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN TREATED AT THE HOSPITAL, ACCORDING TO A RESIDENT.

5. IN HEBRON AND HALHUL, SPORADIC DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRED OVER THE WEEKEND. THE MAYOR OF HALHUL HAS ACCUSED THE IDF OF PROVOCATION AND FORCING ENTRY INTO PRIVATE HOMES TO ARREST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STUDENTS. SEVERAL STUDENTS, HE CLAIMS, HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO NEARBY KIRYAT ARBA AND BEATEN. ON MARCH 19, A GROUP OF ISRAELI SETTLERS MARCHED THROUGH THE TOWN IN A SHOW OF FORCE, THE MAYOR SAID. HIS SUBSEQUENT PROTEST TO THE MILGOV WAS DISMISSED.

6. IN JERUSALEM, A BOMB NEAR AN ISRAELI BANK ON THE HEBRON ROAD WAS DISARMED MARCH 20. ON MARCH 19, A POV WAS SET AFIRE APPARENTLY BY AN ARSONIST IN FRENCH HILL- A HOUSING SUBURB ACROSS THE GREEN LINE.

7. COMMENT: THOUGH WIDESPREAD, RECENT PROTESTS HAVE NOT RESULTED IN PROLONGED DISRUPTIONS OF DAILY LIFE EXCEPT IN EDUCATION. THUS FAR, ISRAELIS HAVE AVOIDED LETHAL FORCE AND THE ESCALATION WHICH USUALLY FOLLOWS IT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, REPRISALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA00804
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780122-1262
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780348/aaaabokv.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6f4ff2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3271157
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE ON THE WEST BANK SUMMARY: WIDESPREAD DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE ON THE WEST BANK TO PROTEST ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SOUTH LEBANON . ST
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, IS, JO, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6f4ff2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014